PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
MIDDLEBURY, VT.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF MIDDLEBURY:

Some of you have learned from newspaper announcements of the latest gift to the college, but I want to make sure that the good news reaches all. Our graduate and trustee, ex-Governor John A. Mead, '64, on Monday, May 11, addressed to me a letter proposing to build a chapel for the college to cost from $50,000 to $60,000. He stated that he was prompted to make this gift in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation, which he will celebrate at the approaching commencement, and in recognition of the divine providence which has signally blessed his life. He suggests a "a dignified and substantial structure, in harmony with the other buildings of the college, and expressive of the simplicity and strength of character for which the inhabitants of this valley and of the State of Vermont have always been distinguished".

The trustees have already accepted this noble and generous gift, and have authorized the appointment of a committee to erect the chapel. Ground will be broken on Alumni Day, June 23, and Governor Mead will present the corner stone.

I am most sincerely and deeply grateful for this addition to our college plant. I have felt the need of a chapel every day that I have served the college, and have longed for the time when I could have our students before me, in a building consecrated to religious use alone and fitted by its appointments and associations for services of uplifting and purifying influence. Few of us can realize how much such a structure will do toward unifying and elevating the spirit of our college life.

Governor Mead has chosen perhaps the most beautiful privilege of service to the college. But Middlebury is rich in opportunity, and privileges not less attractive than this which Governor Mead has seized are waiting for her many friends.

The chapel should not be left long to stand alone on the commanding ridge to the west of the campus. We should house our boys on that height also, in a dormitory that will give them an attractive home and a refining social life. Events of the past year indicate forcibly that we should not allow our professors to depend so largely upon the uncertainties of political action. In almost every department there is room for the foundation of new chairs. What a privilege to found a professorship that will support a worthy teacher in some department of our noble college *forever!* In Middlebury one does not have to go far afield. The important, permanent chairs are largely unendowed—English Literature, the classics, modern languages, and several of the sciences. I trust that Governor Mead's gift will be followed by others, until we have added a full half millon to the resources of Middlebury.

The program of the 114th commencement, June 21-24, is enclosed herewith. Let there be a strong rally of President Brainerd's graduates to wish him well on the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation and to hear his address on "Fifty Years of Middlebury College". Among the guests of the college at this commencement will be Col. George Harvey of the North American Review and Miss Katherine Lee Bates of Wellesley, a grand-daughter of President Joshua Bates.

The treasurer of the Alumni Association asks me to call your attention to the enclosed notice. Additions to the Alumni Income Fund are still in order, and I shall be glad to acknowledge all pledges promptly.

Faithfully yours,

John M. Thomas.

June 2, 1914.